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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/893,419	06/29/2001	Steve Arnold	367.40293X00	5220

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EXAMINER

ANYASO, UCHENDU O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2675

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2004

15

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PLG

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/893,419

Applicant(s)

ARNOLD, STEVE

Examiner

Uchendu O Anyaso

Art Unit

2675

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 8, 11, 12 and 16-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 8, 11, 12 and 16-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. **Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 11, 12 and 16-27** are pending in this action.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC ' 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. **Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 11, 12 and 16-22 and 25-27** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Keen* (U.S. 5,638,438).

Regarding **independent claims 1, 11, and 25-26**, *Keen* teaches an apparatus for selecting an item from a predetermined set of items by teaching a touch screen that operates by selecting a button from the display page wherein the selected button is linked to a first node of the repertory (column 4, lines 43-50).

Furthermore, *Keen* teaches a predetermined set of items by teaching a touch screen display page (102) comprising dial buttons (104) containing predetermined set of items such as information regarding family (104A), friends (104B), Police (104C) etc. (figure 1 at 104A-104G), organized in a menu comprising a first menu (first node) and second menu (second node) levels (*see* Abstract; *see also* figure 6A at 604, 606, 608).

Furthermore, *Keen* teaches a user interface comprising a plurality of actuators by teaching a touch screen interface 418 that monitors the screen 417 and detects when the screen 417 was touched (column 6, lines 8-17, figure 4 at 418, 417).

Also, Keen teaches a control means by teaching a processor 406 that operates in accordance with control logic 410 (column 5, lines 44-52, figure 4 at 406, 410) wherein actuators are provided in the form of touch screen buttons (column 6, lines 31-38) which represent different menu items such as a first menu item representing family (104A), friends (104B), Police (104C) etc. (figure 1 at 104A-104G). There is a one-to-one correspondence of menu items and actuators (buttons) such that the number of menu items does not exceed the number of buttons for a particular menu level (*see* figure 1 at 104A-104G).

Furthermore, Keen teaches a selection means by means of buttons for selecting a first item that is associated with the button (*see e.g.*, column 6, lines 53-55, figure 1, 3 at 104, 301, 302).

Also, Keen teaches how the processor 406 operates in accordance with control logic 410, determines to determine that the family button is associated with the family node in the repertory 301 wherein the touch screen interface 418 detects the pressing of the family button 104, and sends a digital code corresponding to this touch that is coincident of the family button to the processor 406 (*see* column 6, lines 56-66). Furthermore, Keen teaches how the second menu level comprising a second number of menu items in response to selection of the first item so that at least one menu item of the second menu selection represents a subset of the first item, the second number being less than the first number and the actuator operated is not associated with a menu item of the second selection (*see* figures 1 wherein pressing family 104A yields figure 2 with names of members of the family; *see also* figures 3, 6A, 6B).

Regarding **claims 2 and 3**, in further discussion of claim 1, Keen teaches how the plurality of actuators are key means in the form of touch screen buttons (column 6, lines 31-38).

Regarding **claim 8**, in further discussion of claim 1, Keen how the second level selection comprises less items than the number of buttons shown in figure1 (*see* figure 1 & 3 at 104, 304).

Regarding **claims 16 and 17**, in further discussion of claim 2, Keen teaches how the plurality of items selected do not exceed the number of buttons, for example, in figure 1, there are 10 buttons and the selected items do not exceed this number (*see* figure 1, 3, 6A, 6B).

Regarding **claims 21 and 22**, in further discussion of claims 1 and 11, Keen teaches how a user navigates through the hierarchical repertory using the create new telephone number button 110 (figure 1 at 110).

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC ' 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 4, 6, 23 and 24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Keen* (U.S. 5,638,438) in view of *Jones et al* (GB Patent 2,332,293).

Regarding **claims 4, 6, 23 and 24**, in further discussion of claims 1 and 11, Keen teaches the use of buttons as in the input device (column 6, lines 31-38). However, Keen does not teach a joystick as an input device. On the other hand, Jones teaches how a “rocker” type switch would be used as a multi-positional input selection device (page 15, lines 14 through page 16, line 6).

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Keen and Jones because while Keen teaches input devices via buttons, Jones teaches how a joystick input device would be achieved by the use of a rocker type switch (page 15, lines 14 through page 16, line 6). The motivation for combining these inventions would have been to provide an alternative input means that allows for the selection of one of the displayed menu items (page 15, lines 14-16).

Regarding **claims 18-20**, in further discussion of claim 4, Keen teaches how the plurality of items selected do not exceed the number of buttons, for example, in figure 1, there are 10 buttons and the selected items do not exceed this number (*see* figure 1, 3, 6A, 6B).

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's amendments and arguments filed May 26, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant amended **independent claims 1 and 11**, and added **new claims 25-27** and then argues that Keen does not teach a selection means responsive to the operations of the actuators for selecting from the menu a first item associated with the operated actuator. However, Keen

does teach this feature by teaching dial buttons (104) containing predetermined set of items such as information regarding family (104A), friends (104B), Police (104C) etc. (figure 1 at 104A-104G), organized in a menu comprising a first menu (first node) and second menu (second node) levels (*see* Abstract; *see also* figure 6A at 604, 606, 608).

Furthermore, applicant contends that Keen does not teach where the control means is configured to control the user interface to provide a second menu level dependent upon the identity of the selected menu item, that has less menu items than the number of actuators. However, Keen teaches a control means by teaching a processor 406 that operates in accordance with control logic 410 (column 5, lines 44-52, figure 4 at 406, 410) wherein actuators are provided in the form of touch screen buttons (column 6, lines 31-38) which represent different menu items such as a first menu item representing family (104A), friends (104B), Police (104C) etc. (figure 1 at 104A-104G). In analyzing figures 1 and 3, it is noteworthy that display 102 includes in figure 1, the display page 102 having nine buttons from which selection of friends 104B yields a category of three friends (i.e., work friends, Greg, and other friends) that is less than the nine buttons of the previous/first level (*see* figures 1 & 3). This feature negates the argument presented by applicant that Keen does not provide a second menu level dependent upon the identity of the selected menu item, that has less menu items than the number of actuators.

Also, Applicant contends that Keen does not teach the feature of a second menu level comprising a second number of menu items where the second menu selection represents a subset of the first item and the second number being less than the first number. However, Keen teaches this feature. In figure 1, the display page 102 includes nine buttons maximum from which upon

selection of friends 104B yields a category of three friends (i.e., work friends, Greg, and other friends) that is less than the nine buttons (*see* figures 1 & 3). Hence, Keen does teach how a second menu level comprises a second number of menu items where the second menu selection represents a subset of the first item and the second number being less than the first number.

With respect to claims 4, 6, 23 and 24, applicant argues that none of the cited references (Jones et al or Keen) disclose or suggest the input comprising a multi-positional device, or the multi-positional device being a joystick. Jones teaches how a “rocker” type switch would be used as a multi-positional input selection device (page 15, lines 14 through page 16, line 6). Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Keen and Jones because while Keen teaches input devices via buttons, Jones teaches how a joystick input device would be achieved by the use of a rocker type switch (page 15, lines 14 through page 16, line 6). The motivation for combining these inventions would have been to provide an alternative input means that allows for the selection of one of the displayed menu items (page 15, lines 14-16).

As such, applicant’s amendments and arguments are not persuasive.

#### ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uchendu O. Anyaso whose telephone number is (703) 306-5934. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Steve Saras, can be reached at (703) 305-9720.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**



Application/Control Number: 09/893,419  
Art Unit: 2675

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)**

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



Uchendu O. Anyaso

06/13/2004

  
CHANH NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER